

LTC claim of Civilian Mishra ji!

Most of us had an innings at Hq Maintenance Command. The civilians used to be a pain for Accts sections. False medical claims used to be a big racket of civil admin, civilian docs, Accts Sec and CDA's office at Dehradun! But that story is for some other day!

This story happened at 402 Stn Kanpur, Mishra, (ji?) a Civilian Gazetted Officer, once came to Accts Sec, to submit LTC claim, had a cup of tea, with Flt Lt V Varadhan. Since CGO's used to be paying officers they used to sit before us. That claim was unique. It was for more than 8 persons. Parents, four children, one dependent sister, self and wife. Those days PC newly authorised civilians to visit any place in India once in four years.

LTC claimed to visit Port Blair of Andaman Island via circuitous route, Bharat Darshan. There was a bag थैली carrying a garland of tickets travelled from various states buses. So it was a claim going into thousands of rupees! The claim had a letter like receipt for the voyage he undertook by a boat from Madras port and back! That too was in Tamil language! That raised respectability further!

This claim can't be submitted in a usual manner to civilian pay sec, hence he came to submit to Flt Lt Vardhan's office.

Flt Lt was much impressed by his systematic method and careful calculation of monetary benefit.

But it soon dried up. He felt this big family going all over India was too much in summer vacation without reservation. We got confirmation from LU police that neighbors told them they were on short vacation but elderly parents were at home! Unfortunately for Mishra ji Flt Lt Varadhan was expert at reading contents of Tamil receipt of sea journey. His suspicion came true when the police verification confirmed that it was a cargo vessel! So the claim was bogus in totality.

Mishra ji used to enquire about his claim. His tone grew harsh as he came to know about police verification of neighbors! He was on a warpath with the help of union backed Kohli fellow. This Kohli was a big name those days. He could gather a huge mob to surround AOC in his office! Kanpur MP those days used to be communist party bigwig S N Banerjee. A signed blank letter pad used to be a threatening tool to any and every one who could oppose goon Kohli!

It was a challenge to administration. The LTC claim was ultimate test for Accts Sec as well. The inquiry found Mishra guilty and was kicked out of service! I was told Kohli lost his clout. But for that AOC Air Cmde SP Singh had to threaten to resign if Kohli is not punished! As a junior officer it is a lesson to learn.

Flt Lt Varadhan after retirement was zeer head as Aacharya of Ramanujan Peeth, Sriperumbudur. The place became famous because of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991.

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